

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 23, 2016

Dear Chairman Jason Chaffetz, Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings, Rep. Mark Meadows, Rep. Gerry Connolly, and Rep. Stephen F. Lynch:

We write on behalf of 195 bipartisan members in the House of Representatives who support House Resolution 28, which urges the Postal Service to "take all appropriate measures to ensure the continuation of door delivery for all businesses and residential customers." We respectfully request that you reconsider your decision to include Section 202 in the discussion draft of the Postal Reform Act of 2016, which would reduce door delivery service for the residential and business customers who rely on it.

Over 40 million customers receive their magazines, letters, bills, online purchases, and medications through door delivery. The service is highly popular. In fact, a 2014 report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) found that over 99 percent of residential and business customers prefer door delivery. Meanwhile, just 0.8 percent of businesses and 0.1 percent of residents voluntarily converted to cluster box units when given the choice. There is simply no desire among consumers to voluntarily opt out of door delivery. Mandating for business customers will be even more unpopular. GAO's findings even suggest that voluntary conversions are time consuming, labor intensive, and may actually cause a short-term cost increase.

Depending on the generosity of a proposed USPS voucher program included in Section 202, which would partially cover the cost of conversions from door delivery, the proposal may also require the customers to cover some or all of the cost of installing curb-line, sidewalk or remote centralized delivery receptacles. This could cost customers hundreds of dollars – a cost that many cannot afford. Any costs not imposed on customers would have to be incurred by the already cash-strapped Postal Service which should use its limited resources to make long-delayed investments in its outdated vehicle fleet and other growth-enhancing investments, not measures to reduce the quality of service.

A 2014 survey conducted by the Gallup survey company for the USPS Office of Inspector General found that door delivery was the most valued aspects of the universal mail delivery service in America. The same survey found that businesses had an even stronger preference for door delivery. We also call the committee's attention to concerns over the safety and security of curbside and cluster boxes, which are vulnerable to vandalism and frequently not visible to residents from their home. City residential mailboxes are vandalized to a lesser degree, though mail thefts remain a problem.

The undersigned all wish to see a vibrant, financially stable Postal Service, but we cannot do so by eliminating the very services the agency provides. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Committee remove the section entirely prior to introduction of the bill.

Sincerely,

 SUSAN A. DAVIS Member of Congress	 PETER T. KING Member of Congress	 DAVID JOYCE Member of Congress
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